

Hello, my name is Ben Nadler and I am a reporter from the Columbia Missourian.

I have been reviewing court records pertaining to the Sneed case, whose home at 308 McNab Dr. in Columbia MO exploded and burned on March 14, 2008 resulting in the deaths of Carl and Merna Sneed. I had questions about Ameren UE policy regarding the maintenance of residential natural gas sets. We also wanted to get your response to some allegations made in depositions. Thank you for your cooperation.

- What was the official policy of Ameren regarding the replacement and or maintenance of service regulators on residential natural gas sets before March of 2008?
- Before March of 2008, did Ameren keep records regarding what model regulators were put in which houses and on what date regulators were replaced and/or worked on?
- If no, why were these records not kept?
- Are records of regulator replacement and/or maintenance kept when doing service calls today?
- Would Ameren consider a regulator that was installed in 1979 to be an up-to-date and acceptable part to have in use today?
- Today are there regulators in use in homes in Missouri that do not have an “IRV” because they are older model regulators?
- Does Ameren know exactly which Missouri homes have older model regulators that do not have an “IRV”?

In a deposition given by Fred Luetkemeier on 4/5/2012, Mr. Luetkemeier had this to say about Ameren policy regarding service regulators:

“On a service regulator the way we deal with them is unless they are creating problems in the field, leaks or such, then they, they remain out there in operation.”

Luetkemeier was then asked: Indefinitely?

And Luetkemeier responded: “As long as we’re not having problems with them.”

Does Ameren have a response to this allegation? Does this statement reflect how service regulators were dealt with by Ameren employees before March of 2008?

Finally, we have talked to Columbia residents who have recently had their service regulators updated by Ameren (as recently as Thursday Sept. 6) and others who are having it done currently and still have old regulators in their homes.

Are the old service regulators safe to have in operation or do they pose a risk to those who occupy the homes they are in?

How many homes, and which homes, have old service regulators that need to be updated?

When does Ameren plan to have all homes that they service equipped with up-to-date service regulators?